



Montana

Department of Labor and Industry

Commissioner's Office

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### LABOR FORCE PARTICIPATION SURGES IN MONTANA

(HELENA) --- Montana's labor force participation rate reached its second highest point over the past six years this month, climbing almost a full percentage point to 67.2%. This indicates that over two-thirds of the state's population are either employed or seeking employment and provides further evidence of a strong demand for workers in the state.

The state's unemployment rate increased by 0.1 percent to 2.9 percent, though the change was not statistically significant. The national rate also climbed by 0.1 percent to 4.7 percent. Some surrounding states showed greater change in their rates, with North Dakota increasing by 0.2 percent to 3.4 percent and Wyoming declining by 0.3 percent to 3.1 percent. South Dakota remained relatively stable at 3.1 percent, and Idaho 2.3 percent.

"Montana's strong economy and employers' sustained demand for skilled and available workers has continued to attract new entrants into the labor force," said Labor Commissioner Keith Kelly. "Because of these new workers, Montana continues to exceed national trends for workforce participation."

*(more)*

The consumer price index (CPI) increased by 0.3 percent between August and September, with costs spread evenly among most major expenditure categories. Seasonally adjusted employment in Montana decreased by 600 jobs in September, though much of this decline was centered in government reductions related to fire activities. Total U.S. non-farm employment increased by 110,000 over the same time period.

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*\*Unemployment figures are seasonally-adjusted. Seasonally-adjusted numbers remove the effects of events that follow a more or less regular month-to-month pattern each year. These adjustments make nonseasonal patterns easier to identify. The margin of error for the unemployment rate is plus or minus 0.8 percentage points at the 90 percent confidence level. All questions relating to the calculation of unemployment rates should be directed to Tyler Turner, Economist with the Montana Department of Labor and Industry's Research and Analysis Bureau.*

***The October 2007 Labor Situation Report will be released Tuesday November 20th, 2007***

**\*\*\*\*\* INFORMATION AVAILABLE ON THE INTERNET \*\*\*\*\***

**Monthly labor force information for Montana counties are available at:**  
**<http://www.ourfactsyourfuture.org/cgi/dataanalysis/?PAGEID=94&SUBID=205>**

**Monthly Montana industry employment information is available at:**  
**<http://www.ourfactsyourfuture.org/cgi/dataanalysis/?PAGEID=94&SUBID=199>**

**Annual labor force data for Indian Reservations in Montana are available at:**  
**[www.ourfactsyourfuture.org/?PAGEID=67&SUBID=121](http://www.ourfactsyourfuture.org/?PAGEID=67&SUBID=121)**